

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Report Subject</b>	Establishing the Corporate Joint Committee for North Wales
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive Chief Officer Governance Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Ministers the power to create a new type of regional body called a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Ministers have mandated the creation of four CJCs across Wales. They will each have the same four functions: economic well-being; preparing a Strategic Development Plan, transport and improving education. The precise governance arrangements for each CJC are to be settled by the body itself.

The CJC for North Wales was created on 1 April 2021 and its functions come into force on 30 June 2022. It must set its outline budget for its first year of operation by the end of January 2022. It is therefore necessary for the CJC to outline its governance arrangements now. The economic well-being function encompasses the purpose for which the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) was created. The strategic planning and transport functions will influence the NWEAB's role as well and so it is important that the new body takes account of and dovetails with the existing regional governance structures. Proposals for the governance structure are contained within the attached report (Appendix A).

The report is being considered by all six Councils and so is in a common format to ensure consistent presentation of the issues to each Council.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>Agree in principle that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) that the statutory framework that the Welsh Government are developing allows for the delegation of the relevant executive functions to a Corporate Joint Committee;</li><li>b) that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee agrees to the establishment of a Sub-Committee, with membership to be agreed with the Councils, to undertake the functions of the Economic Ambition Board.</li></ul>
2	<p>This transition is proposed in order to achieve a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication. A further detailed report on the framework for implementation will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet.</p>

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE</b>
1.01	<p>Cabinet will recall that the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Welsh Government power to establish a new type of regional body called Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). These bodies have four immediate statutory functions as set out below, though more can be added at the request of the constituent councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) economic well-being;</li><li>2) approving a regional development plan;</li><li>3) transport;</li><li>4) improving education.</li></ul>
1.02	<p>The North Wales CJC was created by statutory instrument and came into being on 1 April 2021. Its immediate functions take effect from 30 June 2022. It must set an indicative budget for its first year of operation by the end of January 2022 and so it needs to start outlining its governance structure.</p>
1.03	<p>The economic well-being function encompasses the purpose for which the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) was created. The strategic planning and transport functions will influence the NWEAB's role as well. It is important that the governance arrangements take account of and dovetail with that body without adding bureaucracy or cost. The attached report contains proposals for the governance structure of the CJC that will accommodate the NWEAB.</p>
1.04	<p>The report (Appendix A) is being considered by all six Councils and so is drafted in a common format for each in order to ensure consistent presentation of the issues.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	These are addressed within the attached report. Welsh Government has contributed to the costs of establishing the CJC and the costs of the NWEAB are already included within the Council's budget.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>																								
3.01	<p>The risks associated with the governance structure are very low level, because the CJC consists of Leaders of the six Councils in North Wales who can control its constitution and actions. The existence of a body with seemingly overlapping function to existing governance structures does create a risk of duplication and complexity which is addressed directly within the design of the structure. The risk is discussed within the report in detail</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to work on issues of long term strategic importance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive. The CJC has the scope to co-opt private and other public sector members with voting rights.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive the CJC promotes regional working</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to enhance economic well being</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>Positive poor health is often associated with deprivation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Positive a more vibrant economy can help to reduce socio economic disadvantage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to address transport issues in a sustainable manner</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	Positive the CJC is designed to work on issues of long term strategic importance	Prevention	Neutral	Integration	Positive. The CJC has the scope to co-opt private and other public sector members with voting rights.	Collaboration	Positive the CJC promotes regional working	Involvement	Neutral	Prosperous Wales	Positive the CJC is designed to enhance economic well being	Resilient Wales	Neutral	Healthier Wales	Positive poor health is often associated with deprivation	More equal Wales	Positive a more vibrant economy can help to reduce socio economic disadvantage	Cohesive Wales	Neutral	Vibrant Wales	Neutral	Globally responsible Wales	Positive the CJC is designed to address transport issues in a sustainable manner
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The NWEAB and Leaders have considered the issues presented within this report, which reflects their views. The report needs to be considered at Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A – Report “Establishing the North Wales Region’s Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Integrated Impact Assessment.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	None.